



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# VA AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of the Military are trying to reach all veterans and their families throughout South Dakota to inform them of the VA Airborne Hazards and the Open Burn Pit Registry.

The registry was created to help address the concerns of veterans who were stationed at or near overseas bases where open air burn pits were used to dispose of waste, including potentially hazardous material.

The use of burn pits was a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside of the U.S., such as in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smoke and other emissions from these pits contained an unknown mixture of substances that may have short and long-term health effects, especially for individuals who were exposed for longer periods or those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma or other lung or heart conditions.

The registry is a tool to help veterans become more aware of their own health issues and to help the VA to identify health conditions possibly related to burn-pit exposure during military service.

Visit: [www.publichealth.va.gov](http://www.publichealth.va.gov).

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You can view the PSAs at:  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/391532/va-airborne-hazards-and-open-burn-pit-registry-psa-60-featuring-sec-larry-zimmerman-sd-department-veterans-affairs-and#.VOZF3LwuUk>

## PURPLE UP

April, Month of the Military Child, is just around the corner! And, once again, Operation Military Kids (OMK) is encouraging all citizens across our state to wear something PURPLE on April 15<sup>th</sup>, Purple Up! for Military Kids Day, to show support and appreciation for our military kids and families.

Month of the Military Child began in the early 1980's by the Secretary of State, Casper Weinberger, as a way to thank, honor, and to recognize the many contributions military kids make to our country as members of a military family.

Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative! The goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community! -

Purple Up! T-shirts can be ordered on-line through iGrow, for \$12 per t-shirt. If you are interested in ordering on-line, please go to this link: <http://igrow.org/catalog/merchandise/> and follow the tips available for ordering.



## EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM A JIGSAW PUZZLE

1. Don't force a fit. If something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see #4).
6. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
7. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
7. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
8. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
9. Take time often to celebrate your successes—even little ones.
10. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
11. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.





# PURPLE UP!

## FOR MILITARY KIDS

In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger designated each April as "The Month of the Military Child." This month is still set aside as a time to recognize and honor military children for their many sacrifices and struggles, as well as their countless contributions to our nation. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.

South Dakota's Governor, signs an Executive Proclamation, proclaiming April as "Month of the Military Child," and special events and activities are held in honor of our military kids.

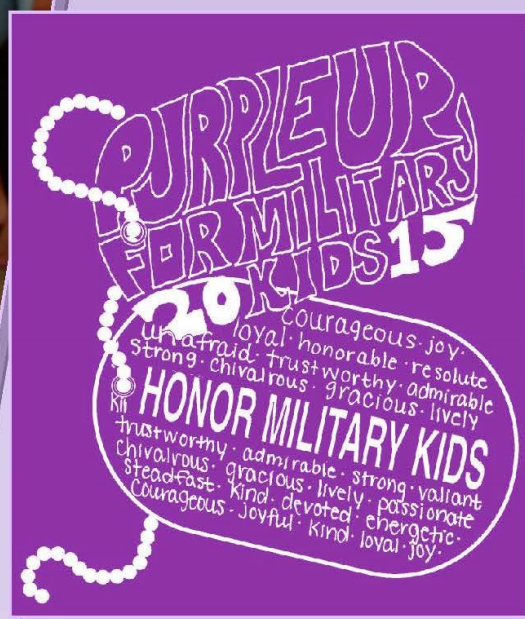
Our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate, like a complicated obstacle course. If given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events. Our communities need to stand together and support our military families.

Help make April a special time for the 7,500 military kids in SD. Remember, when parents serve in the military, their children serve too.



Thank them for their  
service to our country!

**WEAR PURPLE  
ON APRIL 15TH!**



## SENATOR ROUNDS RECEIVES OPERATIONAL UPDATE ON SD NATIONAL GUARD

United States Sen. Mike Rounds met with leaders from the South Dakota National Guard on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Camp Rapid to receive an operational overview of the state's nearly 4,200 member force.

As the former commander-in-chief of the SDNG, Rounds knows the state's Army and Air Guard missions well, but the visit brought him up to date on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges, since his time as governor.

Rounds met with the Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and other senior staff leaders.

"We appreciate Senator Rounds taking time out of his schedule to give us an opportunity to give him an operational summary on the current state of the South Dakota National Guard," said Reisch. "There are a number of national issues that impact our organization such as future fighting strength, budget cuts and support for our service members and veterans."

Rounds, who serves on the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, is in a key position to provide input on legislation that impacts the nation's military.

"Our goal for this briefing was to provide Senator Rounds with some additional insight on how these national impacts are effecting, and could continue to affect, the National Guard here at the state level," said Reisch.

"The South Dakota National Guard continues to do incredible work and provide essential services to South Dakotans," said Rounds. "I thank Guard leaders for meeting with me and bringing me up to speed on current affairs. As a member of both the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, I will continue to seek ways to support our National Guard and all men and women in uniform who serve our country."

Topics covered were the National Defense Authorization Act – a national commission to assess the Army's active and reserve components' size and force mix; impacts of the Budget Control Act – across-the-board spending cuts effects on force structure size and operational readiness; and the Aviation Restructure Initiative.

"The SDNG is doing everything it can to maximize training opportunities and resources to remain relevant, ready and reliable in light of continuing DoD cuts, Army restructuring and the effects of sequestration," said Reisch. "The National Guard provides immense value to the taxpayer for domestic and overseas missions at a fraction of the cost to the active duty component."





## QUILTERS GUILD GIVE COMFORT AND WARMTH



Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.

Last week the Minnekahta Quilters Guild did another Quilts of Valor presentation to 13 of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home residents.

Jennie Coates conducted the ceremony and each lady that made a quilt presented it to the veteran.

The Quilters Guild has a strong history of taking care of our veterans. They not only share their beautiful artwork, but they also have a legacy of donating funds to programs to benefit the veterans at the Home.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Guild for their continued support.



Quilters connect the past with the present and the future.

# Upcoming Events

## 2015

Feb. 21—Lee Greenwood Valentines for Veterans Concert—Sioux Falls Pavilion  
Feb. 24—DOL Job Fair—Sioux Falls Convention Center—1201 N. West Avenue—10:00 am—4:00 pm  
Mar. 13—SFVAHCS Veterans & Employees Creative Arts show  
Mar. 19—DOL Job Fair—Aberdeen Civic Arena—215 S. Washington Street—12:30 pm—5:00 pm  
Mar. 25—DOL Brookings Job Fair—Days Inn—2500 E. 6th Street—Noon—5:30 pm  
Mar. 26—DOL Yankton Job Fair—Technical Education Center—1200 W. 21st Street—2:00 pm—6:00 pm  
Mar. 29—Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Program—Pierre—1:00 pm  
Mar. 31—DOL Watertown Job Fair—County Fair Banquet Hall—14 2nd St SE—1:30 pm—5:30 pm  
Apr. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am  
Jul. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am  
Aug. 5-9—AVIT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls

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